



FEB 18 2005

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

National Center for
Import/Export

4700 River Road
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Riverdale, MD 20737

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Subject: BSE Minimal-Risk Regions and the Importation of Live Animals

To: Importers, Brokers, and Other Interested Parties

The purpose of this letter is to provide information on the importation of certain live ruminants from Canada into the United States.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published a final rule on January 4, 2005, entitled "Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Minimal-Risk Regions and Importation of Commodities." This rule becomes effective on March 7, 2005. As a result of this publication, regulations are now in place to govern the importation of certain live ruminants into the United States from Canada.

Effective March 7, 2005, the following live ruminants may be imported into the United States:

- (1) Feeder bovines (cattle or bison): Feeder bovines can be imported if they are accompanied by an official health certificate, are less than 30 months of age, and are transported under seal to a feedlot.
- (2) Bovines for slaughter: Bovines that are less than 30 months of age can be imported if they are accompanied by a health certificate and consigned directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment in a sealed vehicle.
- (3) Feeder sheep and goats: Feeder sheep and goats can be imported if they are accompanied by an import permit, and official health certificate, are less than 12 months of age, and are transported under seal directly to a designated feedlot.
- (4) Sheep and goats for slaughter: Sheep and goats can be imported if they are accompanied by an official health certificate, are less than 12 months of age, and are transported under seal directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment.
- (5) Camelids (such as camels, llamas, alpacas, vicunas, and guanacos) of any age may be imported for any purpose. They must be accompanied by an official health certificate.
- (6) Cervids (such as deer, elk, moose, and related species) of any age may be imported for any purpose. They must be accompanied by an official health certificate.

The final rule does not allow:

- (1) Importation of breeding bovines, sheep, or goats;



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(2) Transit of bovines, sheep, or goats through the United States; or

(3) Importation of bovines, sheep, or goats to any location (sale barns, etc.) except to a single feedlot or directly to slaughter.

This letter was not intended to provide complete details for the importation or post entry requirements of feeder or slaughter bovines, sheep, or goats. For complete details, the final rule can be viewed online at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2005_register&docid=fr04ja05-17.pdf.

If you have further questions about the requirements to import ruminants from Canada, please contact the National Center for Import-Export at (301) 734-8364.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lee Ann Thomas".

Lee Ann Thomas, D.V.M., M.S.
Director, Animals, Organisms and Vectors, and Select Agents
National Center for Import-Export
Technical Trade Services